



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** September 11, 2017

**To:** Ms. Barbara Eccles, Secretary of Senate

**From:** Dr. Wayne Melville, Chair, Senate Academic Committee

**Subject:** Senate Academic Committee 2016-2017 Annual Report

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The Senate Academic Committee (SAC) met nine times during the 2016-2017 Academic Year. Dr. Wayne Melville served as Chair, and Dr. Don Kerr served as Vice-Chair. The work of the Committee was supported by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), specifically Cathy Ridley, Executive Assistant to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

This Annual Report offers a summary of the activities of the Committee and its constituent Sub-committees during the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

- An Ad-hoc Committee was established to investigate the implementation of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), as described in the 2012-2017 Academic Plan Priority 1C, Strategy 10.
- Reinstated the Ad-hoc Committee that was responsible for developing the Fall Study Break Pilot, and asked it to collect and disseminate evidence as to the efficacy of the Break. SAC reported this information to Senate in March 2017, along with a recommendation to extend the Fall Study Break Pilot to 2018-2019.
- Reviewed the recommendations from the SAC-Quality Assurance (QA) Subcommittee and recommended approval by Senate of a substantial number of major modification and new program proposals.
- Continued to review the recommendations from the SAC-O/AGC Subcommittee and approve proposed Type E (Indigenous Content Requirement) courses.
- The SAC-QA Subcommittee was heavily involved in the Quality Council Audit of the QA processes of the University. In its Report, the reviewers found 'no Causes for Concern', but provided eight recommendations. These will be addressed from the start of the new academic year. The Auditors noted the following about the SAC-QA Committee:

*[The] Auditors were also extremely impressed with the commitment of and collegiality within the Senate Academic Quality Assurance Subcommittee (SAC-QA), whose members were reluctant to change any of the Committee's terms of reference, in spite of the substantial workload required to comply with the various procedures outlined in the IQAP. The auditors also observed a high degree of respect from faculty colleagues for the work and support of this Committee.*

- The Regulations Subcommittee revised a number of Regulations, including the Examination, Timely Feedback, and Test and Assignment Policies. SAC approved the revisions and recommended approval by Senate
- SAC passed a motion supporting LUSU's request that all student appointments to the Committee be made for two years.
- SAC's Terms of Reference will be updated in the coming year in order to reflect changes to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee specifically in respect to the Writing Initiatives Subcommittee.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, Dr. Wayne Melville will continue as Chair and Dr. Tim Hardie will serve as Vice-Chair.

In closing, I would like to thank all members for their input and commitment over the past year. I especially appreciate the work of Dr. Kerr as Vice-Chair, and Cathy Ridley for her tireless efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wayne Melville  
Chair, Senate Academic Committee

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Attachments